

NEWS RELEASE
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**Indiana Pro Bono Commission Recognizes Excellence in Pro Bono
with Randall T. Shepard Award**

State Senator Brent Steele (SD 44) and State Representative Eric Koch (HD 65) will receive the Indiana Pro Bono Commission's Randall T. Shepard Award for excellence in pro bono publico on October 26, at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, as part of the Indiana State Bar Association's annual meeting.

Sen. Steele and Rep. Koch were instrumental in the legislation, HB 1049, that added a \$1 civil filing fee to assist in funding the pro bono district programs. "These legislators helped to guarantee supplemental funding to IOLTA for the next five years, until interest rates recover, thereby ensuring that pro bono districts have the funding they need to serve Indiana's poor," said Diane Walker, attorney and pro bono plan administrator.

Sen. Steele authored the original bill, SB 135, and assisted in its passing through the Senate. Rep. Koch sponsored the bill in the House of Representatives and negotiated with other representatives to ensure the bill passed through the House. "The two legislators never waived on their commitment to see the law pass. Both spent countless hours negotiating the final version that ultimately was approved," said Beverly K. Corn, attorney and pro bono plan administrator.

"The assistance of pro bono providers statewide is critical to ensuring assistance to those in need," said Judge Martha Wentworth, chair of the Indiana Pro Bono Commission. "This legislation will help provide some stability for the providers at a time when there is so much more demand for their assistance."

The Shepard Award Celebration will be October 26, 2012, with a reception at 5:00 p.m. and awards ceremony at 5:30 p.m. The event concludes the ISBA's annual meeting, which will take place at the JW Marriott. Former Chief Justice Shepard and the Honorable Martha Wentworth, Indiana Tax Court and Chair of the Commission, will present Sen. Steele and Rep. Koch with this award on behalf of the Commission. The Indiana Bar Foundation will also present its pro bono and law-related education awards at the ceremony.

The mission of the Indiana Pro Bono Commission is to strive to promote equal access to justice for all Indiana residents. More information about these awards and the Shepard Award celebration can be found at www.inbf.org.

For reservations for the event, call 317-269-2415.

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